

December

Magic Lantern Society
US and Canada

NEWS 2016

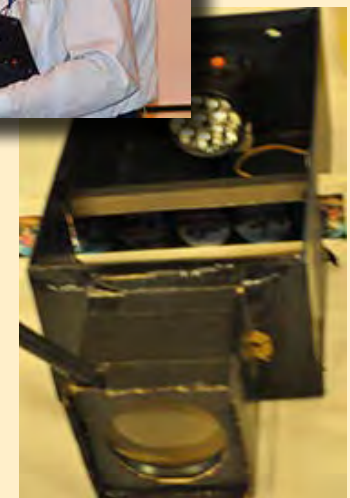


Be Sure to LOOK for those Buttons and roll-over effects

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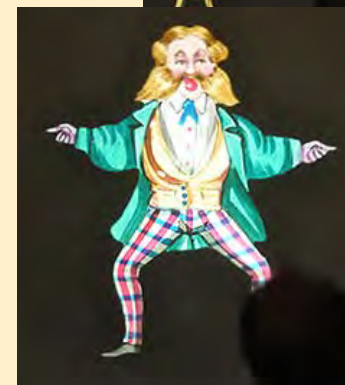
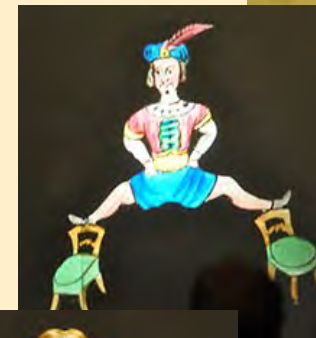
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2016 Convention Photo Highlights October 6-9, 2016



Photos courtesy of John Potter, Adrian Kok & Else Flim, and Steve Barnes

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The Fugitive Slaves
New Orleans
October 2016



For an example of Mitsue Troupe slide projecting demonstration see video on the society Facebook site
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/407347156096502/?fref=nf>



Auction results (bottom of past society conventions)
available at <http://www.magiclanternsociety.org/about-society/past-society-conventions/>

Magic Lantern Society of the United States and Canada Business Meeting - 2016 Convention, New Orleans, LA Sunday, October 9, 2016, Metairie, LA

Call to Order

•The business meeting was called to order by President Ron Easterday at 10:38 am.

President Remarks

- Thank you for joining us here in New Orleans for our 17th Convention.
- President Ron Easterday thanked Steve and Sandy for their work on arrangements for this meeting. Steve Barnes thanked Ron for his work in scheduling presentations, and Larry Cederblom for great graphics. Ron thanked Dorothy Easterday for doing most of Ron's work.
- Ron mentioned several of our friends could not be with us for the convention:
- Vice President Larry Cederblom
- Secretary-Treasurer David Evans. wife Lesley and son Michael.
- Kentwood Wells, our Gazette editor for the last 10 years,
- Dick Moore and Mike Koch also sent their greetings and regrets.

Vice-President Remarks – given by Ron

• Larry Cederblom's term as Vice President is ending as of today. Larry was a major contributor to Society

- Vice-President 1989-1996 (7years) and 2008-2016 (8 years); total 15 years.
- 2 years as Gazette editor in the late 1980's
- 17 years as Gazette graphic designer (1989-2006)
- Web page management since 2006 (10)
- Most impressively, Larry created and produced the monthly e-pub newsletter, starting in February, 2010, issuing 80 consecutive months without fail.
- Major planner for several conventions I know of: Seattle 2006 and Tacoma 2012.
- Graphic designer for convention logos and graphics, including New Orleans.

- Webpage: Under Larry's production and content provided by members, since the last convention the webpage has been completely re-built with a new look and new content. But like all webpages, it needs periodic maintenance and updates and Larry can only do so much

•Stats:

- June 2014 (Convention month)
767 hits average 69 sec duration
- June 2016 1,798 hits average 172 second duration
- September 2,245 hits, average 158 second duration
- We could really use a volunteer to take on the website maintenance and periodic updates. Larry and I would welcome that. This is not a difficult task, just takes a bit of a consistent time commitment, be it perhaps on a monthly or quarterly basis. With the last update, standard webpage templates were developed for ease of updates. You're never too old to learn how.

•E-Pub:

- Search-able PDF of 2010-2014 (84.4 meg) and one year 2015 available from Larry
- Larry enjoys producing the monthly e-pub, but would like to share the responsibility with another to provide redundancy and backup.
- We have a couple of volunteers that can transition the responsibilities of the epub in 2017; it might well have a new and different look that they are comfortable producing.

• Secretary Report – given by Ron

- Notes from the 2014 Boston business were distributed after that convention.
- Action: Debbie Borton moved to accept the minutes as distributed; Steve Barnes seconded and it passed unanimously.
- Thanks to David Evans (and I am sure with help from Lesley and Michael) for his service since 2014. The first 1-1/2 years as Secretary they were moving their home and entire museum

collection from Revelstoke to Vancouver Island, 650 KM or 400 miles with many trips over more than a year.

- David provides detailed, knowledgeable letters and responses to inquiries as you've seen in the e-pub.
- While only one membership directory has been published since the last convention; we should be on track for annual directories again.
- Membership is down slightly in 2016 at 125 members, from an average of 130-140 members.

•Treasurer Report – given by Ron

- Ron and David have been splitting the Treasurer duties, with David collecting dues and maintaining membership records, and Ron maintaining the bank account in the US, handling deposits and making payments, balancing the account each month.
- The Society is financially stable and in good health with about 5 years of reserves. About 1/2 of a year reserves are needed to maintain cash flow for expenses and avoid bank fees.
- In 2014 Ron reported that 2014 was expected to be a break-even year with income matching expenses and that we might need to entertain a dues increase in 2016.
- Costs of printing and especially postage continue to rise. There has been no dues increase since 2006
- I now propose we wait until 2018 and evaluate then – four factors have changed our financial picture for the better:
- Skipping one Directory saved printing and postage, a significant expense. There is always the option in the future to issue the Directory electronically in the future to save cost.
- 2015 Directory was printed in Canada and with the current exchange rate it was much less expensive than in the past.

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Business Meeting - 2016 Convention Continued

- Kentwood issued two Gazettes as double issues, which saved substantially in postage.
- Thanks to Mr. Balzar, the 2014 convention came out on the positive side, netting income to the Society.

• **Gazette Report**

- Kentwood has been Gazette Editor since 2006, 10 years, thank-you to Kentwood.
- Ron gave a Gazette report on behalf of Kentwood Wells, welcoming submittals of research articles, particularly from North American researchers.
- Articles are always welcome for the Gazette.

• **Research Committee Report – Terry Borton**

- The original funding for the Research Award was from member donations made at the 2006 Seattle Convention of almost \$ 1,100; those funds have been expended in awards granted in 2012 and 2013. The awards have not appeared to significantly encourage research submittals.
- Significant academic research continues outside of Society support.
- There was discussion of publishing past research articles from the Gazette in a book form from Terry Borton; with a new introduction. This would help document and distribute the great research that has been already been prepared that exists only in past issues of the Gazette. This may be considered in 2017; no formal action was taken at this time.

• **Old Business**

- None

• **New Business**

- 2017 is the 40th Anniversary of the founding of our Society by Joe and Alice Koch.
- 2018 Convention
- In Boston, Brian Rogers proposed Fairbanks, AK, University of Alaska for the 2018 convention, but alas had to withdraw his proposal.

- To date two proposals have been received – both in Canada, both for May, 2018.

• If the tradition of rotating locations geographically, 2018 would be the west coast. There has never been a convention in Canada.

• David and Lesley Evans – Victoria, BC, just across from Vancouver, BC. They live about 45 min-1 hour north, so probably a hotel on the north side of Victoria with a visit to their extensive collection of magic lanterns and mechanical music devices.

• Jean-Pierre-Sirois-Trahan proposed Quebec. A professor at Laval University, he suggests a visit of Laval's cinema and pre-cinema collections, visit to the Cyclorama of Jerusalem (de Sainte-Anne-de Beaupre), the largest 19th century panorama in the world, among other events. He proposes hosting a scholarly conference at the University for two days before the convention, thinking many would stay for the convention and have a good blend of collectors and scholars.

• Both offers to host are for 2018 and both have said they are unlikely to be available for 2020.

• A third location was proposed by Larry Rakow of Cleveland, OH, host of conventions in 1984 and 1998. Upon discussion of the two Canadian proposals, Larry withdrew his offer and mentioned Cleveland might be available in 2020.

• Steve Barnes moved, seconded by Sue Hall to create a committee to present recommendations to the Executive Committee by February 2017 for a decision in March 2017. Steve withdrew his motion, and Sue withdrew her second.

• Richard Balzer moved, seconded by Sue Hall, to ask each of the proposers for a one-page description of their proposal and for the Executive Committee to submit the two for an advisory vote of the whole Society to be published in the e-pub. The motion passed unanimously.

• Based upon the proposals and the member advisory vote, the Officers, led by in-coming Vice-President

Brian Rogers, expect to make a decision on the 2018 convention location early in 2017.

• **Office Elections 2016-2018 – Debbie Borton**

• Past-president Debbie Borton reported the results of 016-2018 officer elections.

• President: Ron Easterday

• Vice President: Brian Rogers

• Secretary-Treasurer: David Evans.

• **Award Presentations**

• Votes and comments were compiled and results presented by Sue and Bob Hall. Once again every presentation received votes and comments.

• Honorable Damer E. Waddington Red Cabbage Award: The Mitsue Troupe for "Nishiki Kage-e Ikeda Gumi The Law of Reincarnation of an Old Fox & Karin-Sya"

• Joe Koch Memorial Historical Award: Margaret Bergh, Sean Sharp, Louis Mayer & Larry Rakow for "Picture the Songs: Dixie Days - Song Slides of the Sunny South"

• Leora Wood Wells Research Award- Issued Jointly to: Adrian Kok & Else Flim for Dickens and the Magic Lantern in his works, his public readings, and the combination in the Dutch Dickenstheater & Charles Dickens' public readings by the Dutch Dickenstheater and t•Sara Velas for Lectures & Illuminations at the Velaslavasay Panorama in Los Angeles

• **Adjournment**

Following presentation of Award certificates; the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:40.

*Respectively submitted by Ron Easterday
Please notify Ron of any corrections or omissions at president@magiclanternsociety.org*

THE VELASLAVASAY PANORAMA AND MEMENTO MEMORIA PRESENTED

A SPIRITED EVENING OF LOUISE GLAUM, DIA DE LOS MUERTOS,

From Sara Velas

NOVEMBER 2, 2016



After an absence of nine full moons the screen will welcome back the refulgent image of Louise Glaum

In 1935 silent film actress Louise Glaum announced in the Los Angeles Times the opening of her Louise Glaum Little Theatre of Union Square, the home of the Velaslavasay Panorama since 2004

On the occasion of this year's Dia de los Muertos, the Velaslavasay Panorama and Memento Memoria presented an invocation and enlivening of the silent film star's spirit in the theater.

A ceremonial experience of Remembrance Cakes and Confections in the Velaslavasay Panorama Gardens, followed by a performance in the Panorama theater of objects and ephemera projected with multiple overhead projectors layered with Louise's films, orchestrated to an ambient sound score, and



accompanied by live song and readings of memorializing texts.



Memento Memoria is a remembrance project of Jordan Biren & Ursula Brookbank that enlivens people's past using the things quickened by their touch in a performance of object light and shadow with music and recitation.

Anchored by the illustrious history of the grandly immersive panorama paintings of the 18th and 19th centuries, The Velaslavasay Panorama is dedicated to the production and presentation of unusual multi-sensory, immersive experiences. The small artist-run institution makes its home at the historic 1910 Union Theatre - one of Los Angeles' earliest purpose-built motion picture houses.

Yesterday & Today's Toys



GoldieBlox and the Movie Machine

By: GoldieBlox | MFG Age: 6 - 9 years Read Product Description



From Mark Sullivan

mark@amisheexperience.com



Greetings and Happy Holidays from the Magic Lantern Show at the Plain & Fancy Theater in Bird-In-Hand, Pennsylvania.

As we approach the end of a very busy year, I thought I would write to update you and the Society in regards to upcoming shows and a brief look at our second year.

First up, we will be offering 28 performances of our Christmas Show, "A Christmas Journey," beginning the day after Thanksgiving and running every Saturday at 2pm and 7pm. Then the week of Christmas and the week after we

End of Year Recap

will be performing the show Tuesday through Friday at 2pm and 7pm. Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve we will be having shows at 2pm only.

New for this year's show we be Charles Dicken's "Gabriel Grub and the Goblins," using a vintage slide set recently obtained from our friends in the United Kingdom. These slides utilize dissolves as well as life models, all incorporated into hand-painted and colorful main images. It is believed that Dickens wrote this story approximately 8 years before "A Christmas Carol" and there are some similarities. But this is not a well-known story in the United States and so we are very excited to bring this back to life.



We will continue to have the "Night Before Christmas," "Little Breeches," Santa's toys, the birth of Christ, "The Runaway Snowball" (an original story set to vintage slides), and "A Christmas Carol" to round out this hour and a half show. We certainly hope that if any society

members find themselves in our little corner of the world, they will come to see a performance.

And as the year comes to an end, we have tallied up our show count. With group shows as well as public shows we will break 200 shows for the year! We have performed the Bible Stories show, the Patriotic Show "This Is My Country," and our Christmas Show multiple times over the year, sometimes two different shows on the same day! We look forward to growing our numbers as well as our offerings over the next season. We will have an exciting announcement regarding a new program after the first of the year.

I will definitely be coming to the International Convention in Birmingham, UK this coming April and I look forward to meeting all of you and putting faces to reputations and legends! Have a wonderful Holiday Season!

Sincerely,

Mark Sullivan

"Professor Phineas T. Firefly"

Hello Mark

Thanks - much appreciated.

We have the same Gabriel Grub set and showed it at our museum in Revelstoke last Christmas to much acclaim. It is very effective on screen.

Regards

David

Sciopticon Front Lens Specifications

From Len Neale

lenneale@bigpond.com

I hope you can help me with some specifications for the front lenses for a Sciopticon magic lantern in our collection at the Banana Shire Historical Society at Biloela, Queensland, Australia. The rear plaque on the lamp unit shows the date of 3 October 1879 No. 3968 and No. 453 and was made in London England. Unfortunately the front lens assembly is missing and we wish to replace or replicate it. I would need the details of the front lenses i.e number, diameter, distance apart, curvature/focal length etc. I can send you a picture of our lantern if you reply by e-mail. Your help in restoring this lantern to its original completeness would be appreciated.

Len Neale



Thanks David for your reply.

Please see the pictures attached with the plaques shown. An internal flap is also branded "Sciopticon London".

We have restored the woodwork, sheet metal and brass components, and the large



Hello Len

As you may know, the Sciopticon was a superior and popular lantern designed by optician Lorenzo J Marcy of Philadelphia in about 1869. It came with a kerosene lamp at first and later it could be fitted with a limelight burner from about 1875. It was introduced into Britain by Walter Woodbury, a maker of outstanding quality slides, in 1873. It was later redesigned to take the George Smith patent kerosene lamp, as you see, patented in 1879. So that dates your example as being post 1879. The front panel and objective lens would, I think, be common to all



internal concentrating glass lens is intact. We have also sourced replacement wicks. The front lens shown is only a dummy one. We put two ordinary magnifying glasses in it and it does project a smaller image (only 5 inches high).

It sure is an interesting and intriguing object. We have four "animated" two piece glass slides with it illustrating a man rowing a boat, a blacksmith shoeing a horse, a magician making his assistant disappear, and two people kissing.

Of course a genuine front lens would be better, however we could replicate the original if we knew the number and specifications of the lenses i.e. diameter/curvature/focal length etc. I envisage a projection distance of eight feet and an image two feet high would be realistic.

Any information would be appreciated.

Len Neale

versions, so it is possible that someone may have a spare one.

An objective lens with focal length of 8" or 10" is probably suitable for most purposes. Perhaps if any of our members has such an item but does not wish to part with it, they may be in a position to give you the lens specifications.

Best wishes for a satisfactory outcome.

David Evans

From David Evans

Dear Len

Yes, please send pictures of it. If we can identify the maker it may be possible to find an original rather than making up replica lenses, which would be expensive. The focal length could be anything from around 6" to 12" or 14", depending on the size of the hall or room it was intended for. Does the plaque on it mention a maker?

Regards

David Evans

Secretary-Treasurer

Magic Lantern Society of US & Canada

FOR SALE

Newton & Co Magic Lantern

From Penny Williams
penny.williams@sympatico.ca

I'm happy to discover your Society, since decades ago I was given a Newton & Co (72 Wigmore St., London W) gas-jet, glass slide Magic Lantern -- and would now like to find a new, appreciative home for it.

I've enjoyed my decades (since the 1960s) with this wonderful object, but it is time to find it a new home. I wish to sell it, not donate it, but I have no idea of appropriate price.

thank you,
Penny

P.S. I'm based in Toronto, I don't know whether you have any members here or nearby.



Magic Lantern Slides with Christmas Seal Messages

From: Lloyd Thrower
lloyd.thrower@verizon.net

I am a Christmas Seal collector who has picked up several Magic Lantern slides with Christmas Seal themes over the years. I would love to acquire more and am wondering how I might best reach out to Magic Lantern collectors to find them. Thanks for any help and suggestions you might provide.
Lloyd

From David Evans
Hi Lloyd

Could you send me an image or two of the kind of thing you have in mind? We can add your request to our monthly E-Publication, which goes to all our members, so it may be that someone will have what you need.

Thank you for contacting us.

David Evans
Secretary-Treasurer,
MLS of US & Canada

A Special Opportunity

Call for Contributions

From S.Dellmann@uu.nl
Reply-to:
visual-media@googlegroups.com

Dear colleagues,

We are happy to distribute the Call for Contributions for a conference all about lantern slides.

A Million Pictures: History, Archiving, and Creative Re-use of Educational Magic Lantern Slides

Next to academic papers, we also want to have practical, museological, and artistic contributions.

The Call is available here:

<http://a-million-pictures.wp.hum.uu.nl/call-for-contributions/>

Spread the word!

Best wishes,
Sarah



Biunial & Triunial Lanterns

From Dale Barker

dalecbarker@gmail.com

Hi, my name is Dale Barker. I will be launching a new educational programme for students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 in 2017 throughout Ontario, Canada focusing on the evolution of the movies. I wish to demonstrate to students the amazing moving effects of the Magic Lantern. Hoping you can suggest a place to acquire hopefully an authentic Biunial or Triunial but will look at a reproduction also.

Thanks in advance on any advice given.

Regards, Dale Barker

From David Evans

Hello Dale

Thank you for contacting the Magic Lantern Society of US & Canada.

Obviously you will need a fully working example. Biunial lanterns were made in both UK and USA (and probably a few other places as well). The American ones were generally a pair of single lanterns mounted one above the other on a framework and so arranged that the projected images can be accurately superimposed on the screen. This is of course a fundamental requirement for the demonstration of dissolving views. The other is a means of varying the illumination of either each lantern separately (preferably) of having an arrangement wherein the image of one can increase in intensity whilst the other one decreases. Basically either the intensity of the lamps can be adjusted or a 'fan' dissolver can be placed in front of the objective lenses so that each is partially covered but one can be gradually uncovered whilst the other is

gradually more covered. British biunial and triunial lanterns are often in fine mahogany cases with lots of polished brass fittings and can run into thousands of dollars, or even ten thousand or more for a really fine triunial. American makers seldom produced triple lanterns but did make quite a few double ones. They are far less decorative generally and quite a bit cheaper than British ones. You could search eBay for examples and get an idea of the prices asked for various types. Bear in mind you may well also have to obtain a modern electric variable intensity lighting system to fit in your lantern of choice.

I hope this may help a little, but do contact us again if you have further thoughts on the matter. Sometimes our members have surplus items for disposal, so if you would like us to include your request in our monthly E-Publication, preferably after you have made some sort of decision about your requirements, it may be that someone might have what you need.

Good luck with the search.

David Evans, Secretary-Treasurer,
MLS of US & C

Thanks David, I thought I was pushing it on the Tri but hope to get lucky. Believe the Bi will suit my purpose. I have been watching ebay for quite a while, nothing so far. Keeping an eye out for a more common model that can be stacked but no luck yet.

Please include my request on your next newsletter and let me know of any members in the Toronto area that I can possibly speak with or meet to pick their brain. I am also looking into all versions of the mechanical slides, lever, crank etc.

Thanks again, will be joining soon.

All the best, Dale



Do You Know a Source for Lantern Slide Cases?

From Rita Graef

rsg7@psu.edu

Hello

I am looking for polystyrene slide cases for 4' x 3-1/4" lantern slides to use in museum programming that might allow our visitors to handle objects. (much like snap-cases for coins) Can you recommend any sources or protective sleeves for this size slide?

Many thanks for any information.

Rita Graef

Pasto Agricultural Museum

rsg7@psu.edu

814-863-1383

From David Evans

Hello Rita

I don't know of any off hand, but we can add your request to our monthly E-Publication, which goes to all our members. There may well be someone who can help.

Thank you for contacting us.

David Evans

Secretary-Treasurer

Magic Lantern Society of US & Canada

A Big Thank You to the following:

**Dale Barker
Steve Barnes
Sarah Dellmann
Ron Easterday
Dorothy Easterday
David Evans
Else Flim
Rita Graef
Adrian Kok
Len Neale
John Potter
Amanda Shubert
Mark Sullivan
Lloyd Thrower
Sara Velas
Penny Williams
Suzanne Wray**

for contributing to this months issue.

Welcome New Members

Paul D Schweizer

603 Gatling Pointe Parkway
Smithfield
VA 23430

(315) 269-3276
E: pschweiz@mwpa.edu
Retired Art Museum Director

Interested in slides, especially 'The Voyage of Life', Life's Eventual Voyage' and 'Seven Ages of Man'.



From Amanda Shubert

ashubert@uchicago.edu

I am a PhD student at the University of Chicago writing a dissertation on Victorian optical image media--from magic lanterns to stereoscopic photography to persistence of vision toys. The study of the magic lantern is a key component of my project. While I have had the opportunity to view nineteenth century magic lantern slides and projectors, I do not myself have any experience operating lanterns. I am wondering if there are resources available through the Magic Lantern Society to learn how to project lantern slides and study the exhibition conventions of Victorian lantern shows hands-on. Do any collectors in the Magic Lantern Society offer classes or tutorials--or even demonstrations? Although I am based in Chicago, I have access to research funds for travel purposes.

Thank you very much!

Amanda Shubert
PhD Candidate, Department of English
Fellow, Chicago Center for Teaching
University of Chicago
ashubert@uchicago.edu | +1 413-588-7865

From David Evans

Hello Amanda
We certainly have members in the Chicago area - I will forward your email to one I have in mind and we will put your question in our next monthly E-Publication so that perhaps others will contact you as well. I am sure someone will be able to help you.

When you have completed your research,

Magic Lantern Tutorial

please consider submitting it to our quarterly Gazette for publication, as I am sure our members would be most interested in it.

Regards and good luck.

David Evans
Secretary-Treasurer
Magic Lantern Society of US & Canada

NY Times Article With Mention of Phantasmagoria, Panoramas

From Suzanne Wray

NY Times Magazine today contained this article: magic lantern enthusiasts know that virtual reality is not a new thing.



**Want to Know What
Virtual Reality Might
Become? Look to the Past**

Nineteenth-century diversions could offer some clues about the medium's potential.

See More at

<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/11/06/magazine/want-to-know-what-virtual-reality-might-become-look-to-the-past.html>